

SENATOR NELSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I guess it doesn't make any difference which one or what. Senator Hefner, could you tell me what the increased cost of this bill, or if any. I certainly understand the correlating with the Nebraska income tax. But by raising these can you tell me, is there much of a fiscal increase to the State of Nebraska?

SENATOR HEFNER: Senator Nelson, we do not have a fiscal note on the committee amendments. You can look at your fiscal note that was prepared before the hearing and the cost there would be \$280,000. But we have reason to believe that with the committee...if the committee amendments are adopted it would be less than that.

SENATOR NELSON: Thank you. I guess that some...I guess I just as well say it for the record and so on. Some how or other I look at the homestead exemption as one of the most flawed exemptions that we give today. Primarily the fact that if you are drawing a policeman's pension, a fireman's pension, a federal pension, a railroad pension, on and on, you cannot take advantage of the homestead exemption. So, as we all know, another exemption granted makes increased cost for someone else down the road. So that was my question and my concern that since it is very narrowly constructed to the ones that receive only social security, and without other tax exempt bonds and so on, that we were not cutting our tax base again. That was my question to you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Miller, please, then Senator Labedz.

SENATOR MILLER: Mr. President and members, I hope we don't make this a complicated issue. In fact, it's an issue that I did choose as my priority issue which does give some credibility to the Legislature. I kept myself open for a priority, as you all know, but I'll state for the record that is where we allow the necessary issues to surface, much like cream surfaces in milk, to the top so that we can handle them, knowing that we cannot handle all of the bills that are introduced in the Legislature. I kept myself open, this priority was the best one of the several that were brought to me at the time. It's not something that we have to do, but it is important in the sense that it does bring our homestead exemptions, which this Legislature desired to give an exemption on property tax, it does bring